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# Newsroom

September 4, 2007

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### Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Newsroom" (2007). *Newsroom*. 242.  
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# Soweto Street Beat Dance Theatre performs Sept. 18

SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

The Multicultural Student Center at Georgia Southern University will present the Soweto Street Beat Dance Theatre Tuesday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

Soweto Street Beat is the only professional South African dance troupe in the United States. The group came together in Soweto, an urban area in the City of Johannesburg, in Gauteng, South Africa, in 1989 and relocated to Atlanta in 1992. The mission of the group is to teach audiences of all ages the cultural arts and history of South Africa.

The group began as an organization targeting at-risk youth surrounded by crime and poverty in Soweto. The young men were taught to become professional dancers and learned methods of channeling their energies into positive and creative activities.

"What an opportunity to interactively learn about the many cultures and rhythms of the rich continent of Africa right here at Georgia Southern and in the Statesboro community," said Consuela Ward Pender, director of the Multicultural Student Center.

The performance is free and open to the community.

For more information, contact the Multicultural Student Center at 912-681-5409.

# Acclaimed Writer Peter Meinke to read at Georgia Southern

SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

Award-winning poet and fiction writer Peter Meinke will read from his work on Monday, Oct. 1, at 7 p.m. in Room 1115 of the College of Education Building at Georgia Southern University. Earlier in the day, Meinke will meet with creative writing students for an informal question and answer session. The reading, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Department of Writing and Linguistics.

Meinke has published fifteen books of poems, seven in the prestigious Pitt Poetry Series, the most recent being *The Contracted World* (2006), *Zinc Fingers* (2001), *Scars* (1996), and *Liquid Paper* (1996). His work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic* and dozens of other magazines.

His poetry has received many awards, including two NEA Fellowships and three prizes from the Poetry Society of America. His book of short stories, *The Piano Tuner*, won the 1986 Flannery O'Connor Award; another collection, *Unheard Music*, will be published this fall, along with his book on reading and writing poems, *The Shape of Poetry*.

Meinke directed the Writing Workshop at Eckerd College for many years, and has often been writer-in-residence at other colleges and universities. From 2003 through 2005 he held the Darden Chair in Creative Writing at Old Dominion University.

He and his wife, the artist Jeanne Clark, have lived in St. Petersburg, Fla., since 1966. In the spring of 2008 he'll be Distinguished Poet-in-Residence at Wichita State University, Wichita, Kan.

## **See life "From a Positive View" Sept. 12**

*SEPTEMBER 4, 2007*

The Multicultural Student Center and Health Services at Georgia Southern University will present 'From a Positive View' Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

The program will feature two HIV-Positive speakers, Jill Royer and Todd Clack, who will discuss their personal life experience and living with HIV. Royer and Clack volunteer for AID Atlanta, the Southeast's largest AIDS services organization. In addition to sponsoring education programs to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, the organization provides comprehensive support and services for those living with HIV/AIDS. The mission of AID Atlanta is to empower HIV positive Georgians to live independent, productive lives, and to deliver world class education programs to help stop the spread of HIV by reducing at-risk behaviors in targeted populations.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact La'Shanda Johnson, assistant director in Health Services, at [ljohnso2@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:ljohnso2@georgiasouthern.edu).

## **Haywood Family Foundation scholarships will benefit children of U.S. Army Rangers**

*SEPTEMBER 4, 2007*

While serving with the Dixie Division of the Mississippi National Guard, Robert S. Haywood was called to active duty. He completed basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., and chose to serve as a U.S. Army Ranger during the Korean War.

'I grew up hearing my father's Army stories,' said Haywood's daughter, Elizabeth Gillespie. 'He loved the Army life, and he treasured his fellowship with the Rangers. Creating scholarships that will help the sons and daughters of today's Army Rangers is exactly what he wants to do.'

Haywood, through the Haywood Family Foundation, has given the Georgia Southern University Foundation a gift of \$400,000 to create four endowed scholarships to educate sons and daughters of active duty or former U.S. Army Rangers.

‘I commend Elizabeth Gillespie and her husband on the creative way they have chosen to honor Mr. Haywood,’ said Bruce Grube, president of Georgia Southern University. ‘This gift will not only support future Georgia Southern students, it will also benefit military families. Most important, it will achieve Robert Haywood’s purpose.’”

‘Robert was the national president of the Ranger Infantry Companies of the Korean War from 2001 to 2003,’ said his son-in-law, Paul Gillespie, a Georgia Southern alumnus, a former football coach, and a board member of the Southern Boosters. ‘His goal was to create scholarships at that time, but he didn’t have the mechanism to accomplish it. When we established the Haywood Family Foundation as part of his estate planning, we decided to make this major commitment. In giving this endowment to Georgia Southern, we are giving where my heart is, but we are accomplishing the goals Robert set.’”

Elizabeth Gillespie fully supports the Haywood Family Foundation decision. ‘Not all college attendance is covered by HOPE,’ she said, ‘and not all military families have the funds to send their children to college. This will help.’”

‘It is truly exciting to think of the impact this scholarship is going to have for the families who apply,’ said Michelle Pittman, director of major gifts and planned giving at the University. ‘This generous gift from the Haywood Family Foundation is going to make a difference in many students’ lives for generations to come.’”

In 1972 Robert S. Haywood purchased the E. Van Winkle Gin and Machine Works from the Murray Cotton Gin Company. The 24-acre site in Atlanta was used as an industrial complex from 1889 to 1992. Haywood used part of the property to maintain a large sheet metal fabrication company and rented the rest of the space to as many as 40 tenants. Known to locals as ‘Murray Mill,’ the property has attracted artists, painters, jewelers, studio set designers, and has been the site of several movies.

When Haywood’s health began to fail recently, the family made a decision to sell a portion of the land and create the foundation. Rather than make small gifts, the Gillespies, who oversee the foundation activities, chose something they could put their hearts into: the Haywood Family Foundation Scholarships.

‘I loved my Georgia Southern experience,’ said Paul Gillespie. ‘It’s a friendly campus. The first time I went to the cafeteria and sat down, people came over to sit with me, and soon I had a group of new friends!’

‘Georgia Southern has grown, and its needs today are every bit as great as a school with a larger alumni base or a larger endowment,’ Gillespie explained. ‘It’s rewarding for us to know that Robert Haywood’s intentions will be carried out in a way that helps Georgia Southern, too.’”

For more information about this and other scholarships at Georgia Southern University, contact the Admissions Office at 912-681-5391.